

Since 2004, BBVA has an express policy on activities in entities permanently registered in off-shore financial centers, with a plan to reduce its presence in these countries. At the end of 2016, it has two bank branch offices (one for BBVA S.A. and another for BBVA Compass) and issuers registered in the Cayman Islands. More information can be found on [BBVA's Consolidated financial statements 2016](#).

A new report by Oxfam and the Fair Finance Guide International has been recently published, entitled "[Opening the vaults](#)". This report considers other countries such as Switzerland, Ireland, and Luxembourg as tax havens. The research is based on information for 2015 that European banks publish in their financial statements, known as Annual Banking Report. This report is part of the consolidated financial statements and breaks down, inter alia, the profits made by banks, what they pay in corporation tax and the employees they have in each country. BBVA obtains one of the lowest percentages of its earnings in these jurisdictions compared to the other banks analyzed.

When analyzing BBVA's information, available on the [Group's corporate website](#) (page 250 of the 2015 Consolidated Financial Statements) the report highlights BBVA's presence in Ireland. In this organization's report, this country is considered a tax haven, without it being deemed as such by legislation.

In this regard, it is prudent to clarify:

- BBVA obtains a higher net income than revenues achieved. This is due to the reversal of provisions for previous years.
- In terms of the profitability per employee that BBVA obtains in Ireland:
 - The activity that BBVA undertakes in Ireland is not comparable to the rest of the Group, as it is engaged in investment banking and reinsurance in this country; these activities do not require a large number of employees.
 - BBVA's earnings in Ireland do not even represent 1% of the Group total, demonstrating that BBVA does not transfer earnings to this jurisdiction.

In short, BBVA's fiscal strategy applies the corporate principles of integrity, prudence and transparency. Proof of this is that BBVA was the first Spanish company to start publishing, since 2011, [its total tax contribution](#) in each country where it operates. In 2016, BBVA's total tax contribution was 9.44 billion euros.